

Interagency Ecological Program: History of long-term monitoring science in a multiagency context

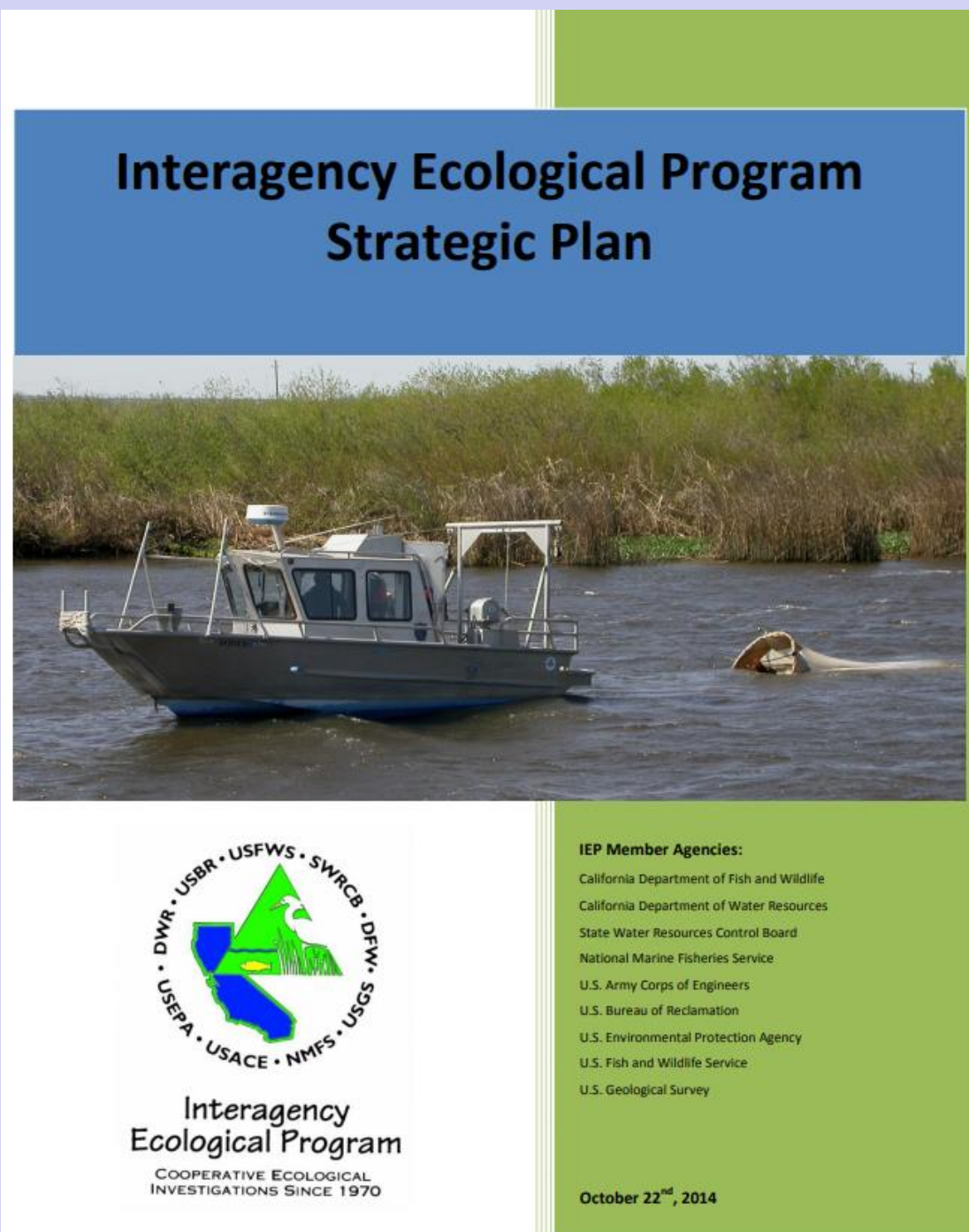
Steve Culberson¹, Louise Conrad², Melinda Baerwald², Maggie Christman³, Karen Gehrts²,
Karen Kayfetz³, Shruti Khanna⁴, Peggy Lehman⁴, Brian Schreier², Ted Sommer², & Vanessa Tobias⁵

¹Interagency Ecological Program, ²Department of Water Resources, ³Delta Stewardship Council, ⁴CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, ⁵US Fish and Wildlife Service



Program Background

The **Interagency Ecological Program** is a consortium of 3 State and 6 Federal agencies practicing collaborative science in support of regional and statewide water resource management. The **IEP** informs high priority management and policy mandates under State and Federal regulatory requirements.



Where?

Collaborative Science Leadership for California's Bay-Delta

- Serve as the interagency core of a collaborative Bay-Delta **aquatic science network** with a focus on Bay-Delta aquatic ecology but coordinated within the full regional watershed
- Provide a **scientific foundation** for planning and management decisions through best available science and strong partnerships with other agency, university, and stakeholder science programs



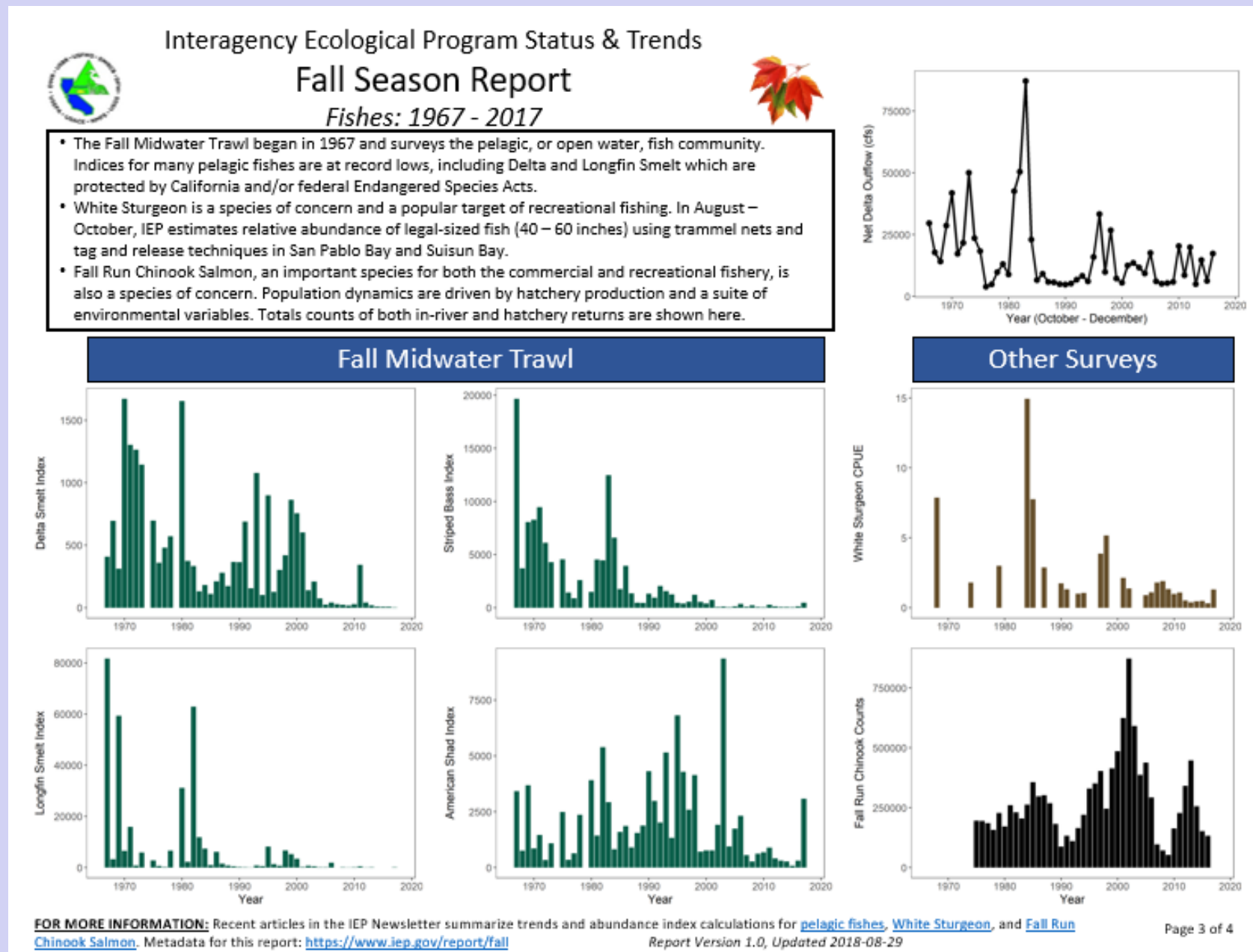
Why?



Compliance Science in a Learning Environment

- Serve as the core of a collaborative Bay-Delta aquatic science network coordinated within the entire watershed
- To fulfill required monitoring mandates using informed, modern, and evolving techniques while maintaining ecological relevancy

Data Collection



IEP relies upon multidisciplinary teams to focus on monitoring and **compliance science** relevant to implementation of **Endangered Species Act** Biological Opinions and CA State Water Resources Control Board **Water Rights Decisions**.

What?

Biological Resources and Physical Processes

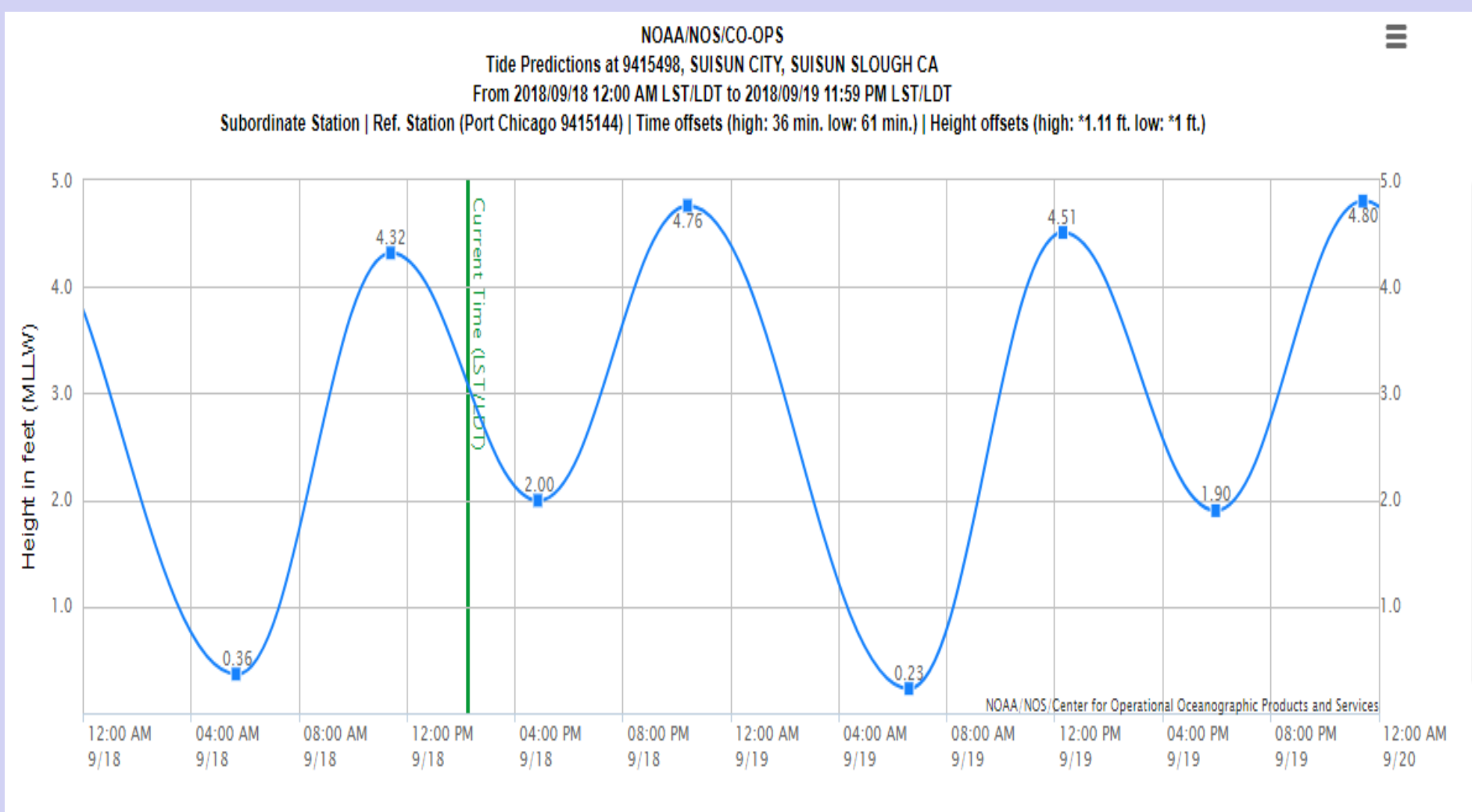
- Focus on **Threatened & Endangered** fish species and the ecosystems that support them
- **Interagency Collaboration** and coordination



When?

Relevant, Responsive, and Adaptive Science

- Physical parameters more commonly tracked continuously
- Biological surveys respond to urgent needs with staged responses (time vs. quality)
- Periodically review program elements



Who?

Objectivity, Continuity, and Transparency

- Involve stakeholders to support robust engagement and collaboration
- Think often about message and communication
- Involve the local subject matter experts
- Ground truth expectations and outcomes
- Engage Agency Directors effectively
- Invest in people and programs
- Understand needs of crews to be relevant

For More Information

